

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 and 9-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 9-11 and 16 are amended, as is the specification. The amendments introduce no new matter, and are generally administrative to either overcome objections to form, or to clarify the subject matter recited in the claims. Claim 8 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 1, objects to the title of the invention as not descriptive. The title is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, objects to the specification for certain informalities. The specification is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, objects to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because they include certain reference signs that are not mentioned in the description. The specification is amended to include reference signs 7c and 7d. Applicant respectfully submits that reference sign 8 in Fig. 6 refers to the same LCD 8 shown in Fig. 1, and described at page 12, lines 22-25. The specification is amended to include reference to Fig. 14. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 18, states that claims 9-18 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 9-18. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-8 are allowable for the reasons set forth below.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claims 1, 2 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,365,302 to Kodama. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kodama discloses a focus area setting apparatus for a camera that includes a distance measuring unit that selects a distance measurement point from among a plurality of distance measurement points detected by the distance measuring means, which is closest to the visual axis direction of the user, and sets a focus area (Abstract). Kodama further discloses that a focus area setting apparatus with a visual axis detection system can be adapted in a camera having an electronic zoom function (see, e.g., col. 10, lines 40-50). Applicant respectfully submits that the trimming camera which is described in detail in Kodama is not a digital camera but rather a conventional camera which changes an apparent magnification by trimming performed during printing (col. 2, lines 7-11). In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that a display unit 6 and a display circuit 13 of Kodama are merely used to display information representing the focus area or alarm information (col. 7, lines 5-10 and 58-63).

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a multi-point auto-focus digital camera, comprising: an image-capturing element that receives an image through a photographic lens and outputs an image signal corresponding to the image [and] a display device that displays the image signal outputted from the image-capturing element and the trimmed image signal created by the image trimming section. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the reason that Kodama does not disclose a digital camera, and therefore does not output an image signal, Kodama cannot reasonably be read to anticipate, or even suggest, at least these features recited in independent claim 1. As such, Kodama does not anticipate all of the features of claim 1.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 5-7 are also neither anticipated, nor suggested, by Kodama for at least the respective dependence of these claims on independent claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kodama are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 13, rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodama in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 06-094976 to Iyama. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action cites Iyama as disclosing the feature, which the Office Action asserts Kodama lacks, wherein said region changing section changes position of focal point detection regions according to the trimming range of the imaged picture. Applicant respectfully submits that Iyama does not overcome the shortfall in the application of Kodama to all of the features recited in at least independent claim 1. As such, the combination of the applied references cannot reasonably be read to suggest all of the features recited in dependent claim 3, which depends from independent claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the combination of the applied references are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 15, rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodama in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,258,799 to Tanii et al. (hereinafter "Tanii"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action cites Tanii for disclosing the feature which the Office Action asserts Kodama lacks, wherein said region changing section changes the size of the focal point detection regions according to the trimming range of the imaged picture. Applicant respectfully submits that Tanii does not overcome the shortfalls in the application of Kodama to all of the features recited in at least independent claim 1. As such, the combination of the applied references cannot reasonably be read to have suggested the combination of features of dependent claim 4 which depends from independent claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7, in addition to the allowed claims 9-18, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:DAT/scg

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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